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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,390	07/07/2003	Dai-Shi Su	21303Y	7606
210	7590	02/22/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCK AND CO., INC P O BOX 2000 RAHWAY, NJ 07065-0907			TUCKER, ZACHARY C	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1624		

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/614,390	SU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zachary C. Tucker	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-11 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 18Dec03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 2-4, drawn to quinoxalin-one compounds, classified in class/subclass 544/354.
- II. Claims 1, 5 and 6-11, drawn to methods of treatment of various types of pain and inflammation, and a pharmaceutical composition, all classified in class/subclass 514/214.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case pain is treatable with many substances materially different from those according to the invention, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and narcotics. Compounds according to the invention are not limited in their utility to only bradykinin antagonists or as active ingredients in pharmaceutical compositions with bradykinin antagonist activity. Quinoxaline-ones within embraced by the structural formula depicted in the method of instant claim 1 compounds also find utility as antiviral agents, for example, see US 6,369,057 (Billhardt et al – cited by applicants in the information disclosure statement filed 18 December 2003). Column 29 of Billhardt et al teaches that compounds within the scope of instant claim 1 may serve as biochemical research tools, as reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Claim 5 is an improper claim, since it depends from claim 1 and recites "the compound according to claim 1." This claim also contains a spelling error.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

For the examiner to search all of Groups I and II at one time would place an undue burden on the examiner.

The requirement is further set forth hereinbelow:

Applicant is required, regardless of which Group is elected, under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Due to the expansive nature of the structural formulae specified in claims 1-5, the number of compounds embraced thereby is too great to conduct search thereof absent a requirement for an election of species for examination. Note, for example, variables "X" and "R¹" in claim 1, many different heterocyclic substituents at R⁵ in claims 2 and 3, many different heterocycles formed by R⁶ and R⁷ in claim 2, which heterocycles are variably substituted, and in claim 4, four separate sets of compounds are specified.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

The examiner has required restriction between compounds and pharmaceutical compositions and method of use claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to compounds, and a compound claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable compound claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable compound** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the compound claims and the rejoined pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined pharmaceutical composition and method of use claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected compound claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between compound claims, pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims may be maintained. Withdrawn pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed compound claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai, In re*

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Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the pharmaceutical composition claims and method of use claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the compound claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the compound claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

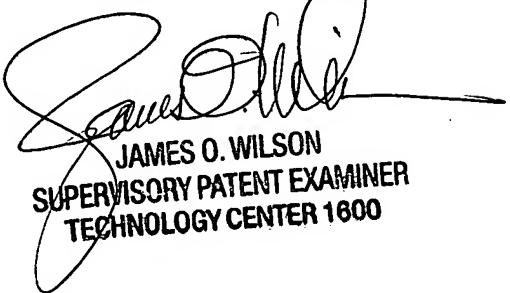
Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Zachary Tucker whose telephone number is (571) 272-0677. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday-Thursday from 6:15am to 2:45pm, Monday from 6:15am to 1:45pm and Friday from 6:15am to 3:45pm (EST). If Attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah, can be reached at (571) 272-0674.

If, after a 24-hour period, Dr. Shah is unreachable, contact the examiner's acting supervisor, James O. Wilson, at (571) 272-0661.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

zt



JAMES O. WILSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600